



USAFE Airman Information File

December 2003

SHARING THE CARING

We take care of and rely on each other every day -- our mission depends on it. For example, a flight lead and wingman perform separate and distinct roles, but they share responsibility for mission success. The flight lead is responsible for planning and operating the flight, while the wingman covers the lead's blind spots and vulnerabilities. Their relationship is built on trust earned from competency and countless hours of training and fighting together -- taking care of each other becomes second nature and an important part of maintaining their bond.

Relationships with our loved ones, our other wingmen, are also sustained by caring for each other. Our husbands, wives, sons, and daughters often make great personal sacrifices to follow us around the world, adjusting their lifestyles and goals in support of our service. They endure long separations and keep up with daily responsibilities until we return home. Fortunately, our greater USAFE community helps us cope with the demands of military life and our expeditionary nature. Squadrons, clubs, organizations, and communities provide great resources and care for our families while we're deployed, but we can always do more.

Combat Care is a new program designed to improve the care, attention, and information flow to our family members while we are deployed. It strengthens our resilience by focusing on the three stages of the deployment process: pre-departure preparation, family support while deployed, and successful reintegration of military members into family and community life. This program addresses each stage's unique stressors and the different approaches available to help maintain family cohesion. Combat Care also aims to create a greater sense of community among spouses and children coping with deployments. Through weekly activities, events, and support groups we remind our spouses and children they are never alone, regardless of their situation and the location and duration of the military members' expeditionary commitments. We challenge you to make extraordinary efforts to identify and satisfy the needs of our loved ones. Help enhance our resiliency and develop our support communities -- we owe it to our families to provide the same devoted support they provide us day after day, year after year.

The holiday season usually affords more opportunities to reflect, rejuvenate, celebrate, and help others. Whether at home or deployed, be sensitive to your environment -- take the pulse of your organization, your peers, your subordinates, your family, and the families of deployed members. Educate yourself and those in need on the many programs and resources designed to take care of the world-class men and women of USAFE, and care for others as you care for your family.

Thanks for leading the way for the most respected, all-purpose expeditionary air and space force in the world. We wish you Happy Holidays and look forward to serving with you in 2004!


General Doc Foglesong
CMSgt Gary Coleman

"Bring Your Courage"